Erosion of tea garden in Assam

1639 SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea gardens in Assam are facing erosion caused by Brahamaputra river and its tributaries; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The problem of erosion caused by Brahmaputra river and its tributaries in Assam with attendant danger to tea estates is part of the much bigger problem affecting a sizeable territory in Assam and this is persisting for a long time. Following severe erosion in 1953, some protective measures were taken through construction of stone and timber spurs and dykes. Tea Board has taken up this matter with the Central Water Power Commission, Government of Assam and Brahamaputra Flood Control Commission.

Joint Patrolling on Indo-Pak border

1640. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan are considering a new move on joint patrolling of Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan had earlier rejected India's proposal in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the new proposal has been found acceptable to both the countries and by when an agreement in this regard is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A decision for joint patrolling on Indo-Pak border was taken in a meeting held at New Delhi from 14th to 16th May 1988 between delegations led by the Interior Secretary of Pakistan and Home Secretary of Government of India. Several meetings have been held between officers of the BSF and the Pak Rangers to decide on the modalities of joint patrolling. The last such meeting was held on 6th February 1989 between DG BSF and DG Pak Rangers. Since no arrangement could be reached so far, the joint patrolling has not yet commenced.

Vacancies of Chief Enforcement Officers

1641. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of vacancies for the posts of Chief Enforcement Officers in the Directorate of Enforcement were recently raised from ten to fourteen to accommodate certain junior officers and that the selection norms for the posts were also overlooked in order to promote them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even though SC/ST officers were available for promotion as Chief Enforcement Officers in accordance with the allotted quota, their claims were overlooked; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating the steps-taken by Government in the matter?